



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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JUNCUS COVILLEI VAR OBTUSATUS
COVILLE'S BLUNT RUSH

Coville's Rush is a strongly rhizomatous, grass-like perennial with slightly flattened stems that are 5-20 cm tall. Leaves are clustered at the base with 2-4 on the stem. Leaf sheaths have auricles located on either side of where the blade joins the stem. Usually 7 flowers are borne in 1-5 clusters at the top of the stem subtended by a leaf-like bract that is slightly longer than the inflorescence. Each flower is subtended by a single scale-like bract and has 6 light brown, sharp-pointed tepals that are 3-4 mm long. There are 6 stamens with the anthers about as long as the filaments. The narrowly egg shaped capsule is 3-4 mm long and indented on top. Each seed is ca. 0.3 mm long and is egg-shaped with a minute point at each end. Mature fruit in late July-August.

The combination of flowers subtended by a single bract, flattened leaves, and 7 flowered heads separate *JUNCUS COVILLEI* from most other rhizomatous rushes. The tepals of *J. COVILLEI VAR COVILLEI* are dark brown, and the inner tepals have rounded tips; and the capsule is about as long as the tepals. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.